

# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 118

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## OUR ROLL OF HONOUR

*Below, we have pleasure in printing, in their order of merit, a list of 18 Constituency Labour Parties whose achievements in respect of members enrolled and affiliated to the National Labour Party during 1930, entitle them to inclusion in this Roll of Honour.*

1.	Woolwich		
	(E. & W. Divisions)	4,424	
2.	Oldham - -	3,500	
3.	Romford - -	3,400	
4.	S. Poplar - -	3,000	
5.	E. Lewisham -	2,874	
6.	Greenwich - -	2,704	
7.	Reading - -	2,654	
8.	Deptford - -	2,600	
9.	Buckingham -	2,500	
10.	Carlisle - -	2,480	
11.	Faversham - -	2,380	
12.	E. Bristol - -	2,368	
13.	Newport, Mon. -	2,206	
14.	N. Salford - -	2,200	
15.	Southampton -	2,172	
16.	East Ham N. -	2,086	
17.	York - -	2,023	
18.	N. Tottenham -	2,000	

This List is authentic and is compiled from the records of the National Labour Party.

## THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE.

As stated in our last issue the Labour Party Conference will this year be held at Scarborough. The event is fixed to take place in the Grand Hall, The Spa, Scarborough, on Monday, October 5th, and four following days.

Resolutions to the Conference should be sent in not later than June 18th. No organisation can forward more than three resolutions. Amendments to resolutions and nominations for national offices are required by July 23rd, and particulars of delegates appointed must be sent in not later than September 17th. The annual demonstration of the Party is to be held on Wednesday, October 7th.

We understand that the Conference notices have now been sent out to affiliated organisations, and there is approximately two months in which to consider the forwarding of resolutions.

The delegation fee is now, as last year, £1 per delegate. We earnestly trust that local Labour Parties will not be debarred by this consideration and consideration of delegates' expenses from taking their proper part in the annual deliberations of the Party. Every year it becomes more imperative and incumbent on local Parties to take their share rather than to leave the Conference largely to delegates of other sections of the Party.

## LOCAL LABOUR LIMBS

See next and previous page

## APPRECIATION.

Mr. R. C. Roberts, of 109, Hill St., Rhymney, Mon., writes: — "With pleasure do I enclose postal order of 4/6, being my yearly subscription. I may say that illness has prevented me from sending before to-day, and only illness could, for your publication is excellent."

Miss Turner, of 40, Glenfield Road, Dover, writes: — "'The Labour Organiser' is a mine of information for anyone, who, like myself, takes an active interest in the Labour Movement."

## R.P. CIRCULAR.

In a circular to registration officers under date 14th April, the Home Office reminds registration officers that the date for the census this year is 26th April. It is stated that the collection and revision of the census schedules will occupy some period after that date and may extend well into May.

The Registrar General has represented to the Home Office that it is of great importance in order to avoid confusion that the enquiries for the purpose of the register should not overlap the census operations. The Secretary of State understands that as a general rule this enquiry commences about the middle of May, and he trusts that in no area will it be commenced earlier than the 10th of that month.

From enquiries the "Labour Organiser" made on this matter prior to the issue of the above named circular, it would appear that in some areas the issue of Form A has already commenced, or it was intended to issue practically immediately. This course would certainly lead to unnecessary confusion and irritation of householders.

## POLITICAL AGENT

The London Co-operative Society, Ltd., Political Committee, invite applications for the position of full-time Agent for a London constituency. Salary—National Labour Party Scale. Knowledge of the Co-operative movement desirable.

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## LABOUR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

How Carlisle "Delivers the Goods."

By A. C. POWELL, Labour Agent, Carlisle.

Since the publication in the "Labour Organiser" in March, of the article on Carlisle's Penny-a-Week Membership progress, quite a number of enquiries have reached us from different parts of the country, asking for details as to our method of launching and maintaining the scheme.

I think, therefore, that a short history of our experience and methods may be of use to those go-ahead constituency parties who contemplate inaugurating a similar membership basis.

For four years prior to 1930, we in Carlisle, found ourselves drifting further and further into debt. Year after year, the financial statement revealed that membership fees (on the old 1/- a year basis) constituted about the smallest item on the income side of the balance sheet—and this in a constituency that boasted of 12,000 Labour voters.

My hair, and that of the Party Treasurer, was in danger of going prematurely grey—for occasional special efforts to raise additional funds failed to solve the problem.

(And here I should incidentally like to say how fortunate I am in having as a colleague such a capable financier as is our Treasurer, Mr. S. W. Evans. He throws his whole heart and soul into the furtherance of the Party, and is an untiring worker in the cause of Socialism).

And then the new individual membership scheme was thrown into the national arena, and a new ray of hope illumined our troubled lives. It is one thing, however, to become an enthusiast for something new and sound, and quite another thing to convert one's fellows. The first suggestion to the local Party did not meet with much success, for quite a number of the older stalwarts foresaw all kinds of imaginary difficulties in regard to organising the new method. Why do so many good workers invariably create non-existent difficulties when grit and determination can always overcome the real ones? If all the energy used in seeking imaginary difficulties was devoted to overcoming the real ones, many a constituency party would be far better off than it is. After all, difficulties only exist so that men and women of cour-

age and determination may overcome them.

However, after much discussion, we agreed, at the end of 1929, to embark on the new scheme.

In January, 1930, the first shot was fired. Our method was as follows.

From old election canvass cards we extracted the names of Labour supporters and duplicated 2,000 letters signed by our M.P., giving details of the new membership basis and inviting people to join the Party.

At the foot of the letter was a detachable slip intimating willingness to join, and giving name and address.

Meetings with the Ward Officials were held, the scheme explained, and helpers called for to deliver the letters in each Ward, and to follow up the delivery of the letters by collecting the slips a few days later. Arrangements were also made for Wards to nominate collectors and to report the names to the Agent. Within a few days hundreds of letters were delivered and hundreds of names of willing members rolled in.

These slips were sorted out by Wards and passed to the duly appointed collectors to enable them to call on the potential members.

Membership cards were obtained from National Headquarters and also a supply of adhesive stamps, representing a penny, to be affixed to each member's card for every penny paid. These were handed to collectors as required, together with a suitable book in which collectors could enter members' names, street by street, and the amounts received. As the money was paid into the office, it was checked by the book, and, periodically, by the stamps used.

We have worked on a commission basis of 25 per cent. to collectors and 25 per cent. refunded every month to the Wards concerned. Thus each Ward benefits by its growing membership and there has been a lively competition between Wards to top the list.

In the work involved, we have found the help given by the various Women's Sections invaluable, and it is no exaggeration to say that the success achieved has, in the main, been due to their painstaking work and enthusiasm. This, without in any way detracting

from the good work achieved by the members in general.

We had our difficulties at first. That was inevitable. Many letters were not delivered owing to imperfect organisation, or, if delivered, not followed up. This was noted and arrangements made for a new letter in these cases.

As time went on and we gained experience, we reaped the reward.

Our membership on the new basis grew to over 2,000 in the year. Our income from membership fees rose from under £30 in 1929, to over £300 in 1930. Old debts that had weighed us down for weary months, were paid off one after the other, and we entered 1931 with light hearts, renewed hope and a new determination.

This year our Treasurer wants £500 from membership fees, *and he is going to get it.*

We are now sending out 2,000 more letters to Labour sympathisers in three Wards out of ten. These will go to those not yet members, where we have a vast support. We've got money to burn now, so we are doing the thing on business lines! The circular letters containing an appeal to join, with a stirring defence of the Government's

record, signed by our M.P. will go by post to ensure complete and rapid delivery. Each letter will contain a printed and stamped postcard for intimating willingness to join. These, when returned, will be passed to the collectors.

As the membership increases and additional funds become available, each Labour supporter (recorded from canvass cards) will be similarly dealt with, till every part of the city has been thoroughly combed.

We polled 12,000 votes at the last election, and our aim is 10,000 members. Call us optimists if you will, but having sampled some of the things that can be achieved by work and faith, we set no limit to our possibilities.

To those in doubt we would say "Don't let difficulties kill enthusiasm. Go on and you'll be surprised at what you can achieve."

We've done pretty well, but we are far from satisfied, and we shall not be satisfied till we've put Carlisle right on the map of the Labour Movement. We invite other constituency parties to start right away in a friendly race to the top—a race which will be invaluable to the Labour Movement.

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS.

### What Brecon and Radnor Does.

We note with interest that in the Brecon and Radnor Division, each new member is welcomed into the Party by a special circular letter sent on behalf of Mr. Peter Freeman, M.P., the sitting member. This is an excellent idea, and what is excellent also are the suggestions given by the member as follows:—

(1) Help your local Party in every way possible. Attend its meetings regularly. Inspire others by the example of your own enthusiasm and capacity. Do not find fault or criticise, but try to make yourself more efficient. On no account gossip to third parties about our work or other members. Offer to undertake some definite service to your own Party in any of its many activities, i.e. — socials, whist drives, dances, general organisation, women sections, Guild of Youth, collecting funds, selling Labour literature, distributing leaflets, forming study circles — or in other ways that may occur to you.

(2) Buy the "Daily Herald" regularly, wherever you are. Insist on

having it every day. It now ranks higher than other daily papers. Do not be ashamed of your own paper. It will be the most important factor at the next Election, and will be the Labour Party's truest friend in the critical days ahead of us. It gives a faithful picture of Labour's great efforts to bring about a happier condition in the lives of the workers and real peace to the nations of the world.

(3) Try and get new members. Interest your friends. Talk to other people about our Movement. Be a live wire in our cause!

(4) Give away free leaflets. Get some from your local secretary suitable for your area. Carry some with you, and use when convenient opportunities arise. They are more effective now than at Election time.

(5) Help us financially if you can. This movement is run on the pennies of the workers! Your minimum subscription will not meet our expenses. But none are excluded from our Party because of poverty. If therefore you can afford to give a little more, please do so generously.

(6) Please ask for me when I am next in your neighbourhood as I am anxious



to meet every new member personally. Please do not fail to call on me if I can be of any service to you at any time. Letters can always be sent to me — c/o Mr. Tudor E. Watkins, Labour Office, 91, Struet, Brecon (Telephone for messages—Brecon, 90).

Finally :—

(7) If you are ever in London I shall always be glad to see you at the House of Commons, and endeavour to find you a seat in the "Stranger's Gallery" if desired.

### WHEN ELECTION CONVEYANCES ARE ABOLISHED.

Interest has been aroused in the question whether there is likely to be a fall in the percentage of voters exercising the franchise should the abolition of cars for the conveyance of voters actually become law as a result of the passing of the Representation of the People Bill now before Parliament.

In this connection there is some experience already to go upon. We understand that in Preston where an agreement to exclude the use of cars was in force between the Parties in 1923 and 1924 there was no actual fall in the number of electors recording their votes. We believe that an agreement was also in force for some years in Oldham limiting the use of cars.

Our own view is that immediately following the passing of the Act the other two Parties will probably experience a loss of votes due of course to the bad training they have given to their voters. After a few elections it might be expected that Liberal and Tory voters will be trained to vote at their own expense and trouble. Why then, it might be asked, does Labour clamour for cars to be prohibited if they do not expect to reap some advantage from the effect the prohibition would have in limiting the votes cast by their opponents. The truth of course is that Labour does not ask for this reform because of any such anticipated effect, but because the conveyance of electors to the poll has a limiting effect on the exercise of their free choice, and because it gives an unreasonable advantage to a wealthy candidate. Without cars we should, in time, have as high a percentage of votes cast as at present, but much more intelligent voting.

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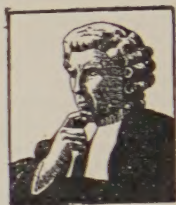
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## LAW AND PRACTICE



### A Little Study in Qualifications and Disqualifications.

We have received from a correspondent the following interesting batch of queries:—

Will you kindly inform me whether a person can sit for TWO or more seats on a rural district council, and if not will you kindly quote me the Act and Section?

Yesterday's election results show that three persons have been returned for several different parishes in the same rural district; is there not a fine if a person continues so to sit?

Can the following accept seats on an urban district council:—

1. The Relieving Officer now employed by the County Council, but immediately responsible to a local Guardians Committee, to which the Urban District Council elects representatives, whilst, of course, the U.D.C. is the collecting authority for the rates, and appoints the members of the Assessment Committee for the area.

2. The Manager of the local Labour Exchange was elected yesterday at the top of the poll; do you think that he would be forbidden under the terms of his contract with the Ministry of Labour?

3. The local income tax collector was also returned. This man is also a rate collector for the — Protection Commission, which levies rates on the U.D.C. assessment throughout the town for the upkeep of the Parade, pier and sea defence works. This person is also clerk to several parish councils around, local registration officer and rate collector for the surrounding rural district council, but not the urban district.

It appears from our correspondent's letter that in his quarter of the world the public are troubled with not one,

but several local Pooh Bahs, and we sympathise mightily with him and the local public at large. Omnipresental gentlemen are usually the reactionary robots of the Tory Party and most places to study their own good would get rid of them.

The first question relating to the election of a person for two or more seats on the Rural District Council receives its answer in the recently revised Statutory Rules and Orders for Urban District Council Elections (S.R. & O., 1931, No. 23). On page 31 of these Rules will be found the fifth schedule in which appears the following provision:—

"If a person is either elected or deemed to be re-elected district councillor in more than one ward in the urban district for which the election is held, he shall not accept office in respect of more than one of such areas, and if he accepts office or pays the fine for non-acceptance of office in respect of one of such areas, he shall not be liable to a fine for non-acceptance of office in respect of any other of such areas."

Immediately the elected person has taken his choice a casual vacancy will exist. The election must be held within one month after notice in writing has been given to the chairman of the District Council or to the Clerk by two Councillors. The Rules also say "or in the case of a vacancy by resignation, disqualification or absence within one month of the office becoming vacant." It is doubtful if the latter provision applies and we think that notice must be given by two Councillors. As to a fine, it will be seen that a person is only allowed to take the declaration in respect of one seat, and therefore he cannot commit the offence of continuing to represent more than one area.

Regarding the Relieving Officer employed by the County Council, this



gentleman is, in our opinion, eligible to sit on the Urban District Council notwithstanding that the Urban District Council appoints its representatives to a Local Guardians' Committee. This Relieving Officer is expressly prohibited from sitting on the *County Council* under the provisions of the Poor Law Act, 1927, where it is laid down in Section VIII that "no paid officer engaged in the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor, nor any person who, having been a paid member, has been dismissed within five years previously from office . . . shall be capable of serving as a member of the Council of a County . . ." But the prohibition does not extend to the Urban District Council.

The Relieving Officer, however, may not be one of the persons appointed by the Urban District Council to the Guardians' Committee. The Local Government Act, 1929, Section 10 (2) prohibits any person from being a member of a Committee or Sub-Committee constituted under an administrative scheme, who would be disqualified from being a member of the Council by which the Committee is appointed. The Guardians' Committee is of course "appointed" by the County Council, though certain persons are nominated by the District Councils.

Regarding the Manager of the Local Labour Exchange, we have made enquiries and we find while there is a general bias against Exchange Managers becoming elected to any sort of elective public body an exception might be made in the case of a small council—but certainly not in the case of a large and important one.

As to the Income Tax Collector, in the first place we find that there is no express disqualification for election to an Urban District Council when acting in that capacity, nor does the fact that the same gentleman acts as clerk to several parishes around affect his qualification to be elected to the Urban Council, which of course is a distinct Local Government authority. His position as local registration officer is, we presume, a local post held under the County Registration Officer, though our correspondent does not say for which area he acts. The post being held under the County Council would not disqualify for election to the Urban District Council.

This same gentleman's position as a Rate Collector is curious. The position as regards his rate collectorship

for the surrounding rural district is analogous to his position as clerk to the rural parishes round about, i.e., it does not disqualify. But his rate collectorship for a body which levies rates within the Urban area is a matter more complicated. We have answered a question in this same issue relating to the employment of a person by a Burial Board, and there is a similarity between the cases. The ——— Protection Commission would appear to be a separate corporate body, and although it levies rates and perhaps is in some way partly responsible to the Urban District Council it does not appear that the employment as rate-collector is an employment under the Urban District Council itself—even indirectly. In that case there is no bar to this man's membership of the Council. In the other a person was held to be disqualified who held a post where two Councils were jointly responsible for his salary. The matter is open to argument.

We venture, however, to express the opinion that the presence of any person holding such a number of public offices, some of them closely associated with the authority he sits upon, constitutes something not far short of a scandal. Here is an example of a coach and horses being driven through the various disqualifications carefully thought out by Parliament. It is difficult to understand the mentality of an electorate which has no better sense of decency than to place a man in a position where he is not only a servant but a master too, and with not a few opportunities of adding to the many emoluments he already receives.

Our opinion has of course been given in the light of our reading of the law as it stands and the decisions known to us. One or two of the points presented might however provide some ground for legal argument. And it would be interesting to know how a straight-thinking judge would express himself regarding the income tax collector in particular and all his offices.

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# “THE PREVIOUS QUESTION!”

By T. E. NAYLOR, J.P., M.P.

**T**HERE is no good reason for the confusion that so often prevails at a meeting when a motion for “The Previous Question” is proposed. Few points of procedure create so much misunderstanding, or are so little understood as this.

## “Next Business” Different.

Not always does the Chairman of a conference handle this question in the proper way. “The Previous Question” is treated, more often than not, in the same manner as a motion for “The Next Business.” Yet there is a distinct difference between the two, both in the object to be achieved and the method of testing the opinion of the meeting.

At a recent National Labour Party Conference a discussion took place on the Chairman’s action in declaring that as a motion for “The Previous Question” had been put to the members and defeated, he was bound to put the main question immediately to the vote, without further discussion, notwithstanding the fact that only two speeches had been made on the original proposition. In this he was right. But a mistake had been previously made in refusing to allow further discussion after “The Previous Question” had been moved.

The proper way to deal with a motion for “The Previous Question” is to treat it as an amendment to the original proposition. This enables the discussion on the latter to continue; and not until the debate is closed should “The Previous Question” be put to the meeting.

## An Amendment.

To insist on putting “The Previous Question” immediately it is moved would probably lead to the original proposition not being properly discussed pro and con., should “The Previous Question” be lost; for in the latter event the Chairman must proceed at once to put the original proposition without further discussion; no harm would be done if “The Previous Question” were carried, for in that case the original proposition is no longer before the meeting.

It is important to note the distinction between the two motions—“The Previous Question” and “The Next Business.” As already explained, the loss of the first involves the instant putting of the original proposition; but loss of

“The Next Business” results in the discussion on the original proposition being resumed. In this case, it will be seen, it is of little consequence how early in the discussion “The Next Business” is moved. If it is carried, the meeting has declared that it will have nothing more to do with the main proposition; if it is lost, the vote on the original proposition is not taken until the debate has run its course. A motion for “Next Business” should not be accepted as an amendment to the original proposition, and no discussion upon it should be allowed. It should be put to the vote as soon as seconded.

## Re-Introduction.

The reason for the maintenance of two motions so much alike, when “The Next Business” alone would seem to be sufficient for all purposes, is this: when “The Previous Question” is carried, it is understood that any restrictive rules or regulations of an association as to the re-introduction of a defeated proposition within a specified time, or for a given number of times, would not apply, as the meeting has reverted to the previous question, whereas a successful motion for “The Next Business” implies that the meeting has considered the original proposition, and, regarding it as unworthy of further discussion, passed on without question put to the next one on the agenda.

## The Chairman Should Know.

It is a subtle distinction, but may at times prove to be of first-rate importance. Whether those more or less hasty persons who move the one and the other ever stop to consider the precise effect of the motion proposed is another matter.

The Chairman, however, should know: and he should be careful to apply the correct procedure when accepting one or other of the two motions.

[We have extracted the above article from that vigorous Labour monthly “The London News.”]

What is a

**LABOUR  
LIMB ?**

See page 63



## QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

### Voting Twice in County Council Elections.

*Question.* Will you kindly inform me how many times a person can vote at a County Council Election? People have been voting in several County Council Divisions within the county of ——. Lord ———, for instance, voted at least twice in different County Council Divisions.

*Answer.* This matter is governed by Section 8 (2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, which reads as follows:—

“A person registered as a local government elector for any local government electoral area shall, while so registered (and in the case of a woman, notwithstanding sex or marriage) be entitled to vote at a local government election for that area; but where, for the purposes of election, any such area is divided into more than one ward or electoral division, by whatever name called, a person shall not be entitled to vote for more than one such ward or electoral division.

“Notwithstanding anything in this provision a person may be registered for more than one such ward or division of a local government electoral area (not being a municipal borough), and may vote in any such ward or division for which he is registered at an election to fill a casual vacancy.”

It will be seen from the above that the persons who voted more than once did so illegally. There is a slight difference to note between the position in municipal boroughs, and that of other areas. In a Municipal Borough a person may not be registered in more than one ward. It is only therefore by an error that a person can get the opportunity of voting more than once at a General Election of Councillors, and there is not the liberty of exercising

a vote in respect of a casual vacancy even where a qualification exists. In all other cases a person may be registered as a Local Government elector in as many wards or divisions as he possesses qualifications. Hence the opportunity which Lord ——— has exercised.

A curious omission in the statutes is to be noted in connection with the question of voting in more constituencies or places than are allowed. In Parliamentary Elections it is specifically declared by Section 22 (1) of the R.P., 1918, that voting for more constituencies than allowed at a Parliamentary Election is an illegal practice. The Act however, omits to lay down a similar penalty for Local Government Elections, and a person who exercises all his franchises at a County Council Election apparently commits no offence!

It should be observed that it is the business of the presiding officer to prevent persons exercising the vote if they have already voted in another electoral division. Questions may be put to the voter where thought necessary, and a person can then only obtain a ballot paper who falsely answers such questions. A preventive we can suggest to our correspondent is the appointment of polling agents or the notification of duplicate voters to the registration officer for the county. It should be the latter's business to send a list of duplicates to presiding officers so that the questions should be put.

### Absence of Presiding Officer.

*Question.* At our recent County Council Elections certain presiding officers left their stations and motored, in one case, fourteen miles to vote. Is this in order? Officers were appointed too so strongly partisan that during the campaign one followed me round heckling me on behalf of my Tory



opponent. Is the appointment of such officers legal?

*Answer.* There is no express enactment which prohibits presiding officers from leaving their stations for any legitimate purpose. To do so, however, for any lengthened period would, in our opinion, amount to a dereliction of duty. Section 11 of the Ballot Act subjects every presiding officer guilty of any "wilful misfeasance or any wilful act or omission to a forfeiture to any person aggrieved by such acts, of a penal sum of not exceeding £100." The presiding officer is expressly charged by the Act with keeping order at his station, and he has certain powers and responsibilities which cannot be delegated to his clerk. It is clear, therefore, that when a returning officer absents himself for such time as is required to exercise his vote at such a distance as our correspondent names, serious inconvenience may arise, and there may be specific irregularities traceable to the presiding officer's neglect which may land him in an action for damages. We advise vigorous complaint to the returning officer in order to prevent a recurrence of the offence.

The attitude of the legislature to voting by presiding officers and poll clerks is worth noting here. At a Parliamentary Election the returning officer may issue certificates to the presiding officers and poll clerks enabling them to vote at the station to which they are attached. One may draw from this the clear inference that it was held inadvisable for presiding officers to absent themselves, and apparently it was utterly unthinkable that they should require any further facility to enable them to vote if they were registered in some other constituency; no provision to meet this contingency exists.

In Local Government Elections no provision at all exists enabling officers to vote at their own stations. It seems therefore clear that the loss of their vote was deemed of little consequence, or at any rate the expectation would be that such officers would be local people who could vote without great inconvenience. It is outrageous that any officer should be appointed if he desires to leave the station and travel fourteen miles to exercise a vote.

As to the employment by the returning officer of active partisans, there can be no free election while this sort of thing goes on. Few returning officers

however, would repeat the employment if the facts were brought to their notice.

### Does Housing Subsidy Disqualify?

*Question.* A councillor's wife received a subsidy from the Council for a house. Does this disqualify the councillor from still continuing in office, and does it debar her from standing for Council honours for a period?

*Answer.* The disqualification of a councillor's wife does not extend to the husband or vice versa, unless the other partner has some joint interest in the contract which disqualifies. This apparently would not be the case in the instance quoted.

Regarding the disqualification of the wife herself, this question is not entirely without doubt at the present time. It has clearly been expressed that a person who occupies a house at a rental from a local authority is not disqualified from being elected a member thereof (Housing Act, 1925, Section 125). It was also laid down by the Housing Act, 1923, that a person should not by reason of an advance being made to him under that Act be disqualified from being a member of the local authority by whom the advance was made. This covers the question of the purchase of a house where a mortgage has been arranged.

The question of the subsidy, however, stands on an entirely different footing, and it would appear that this is a contract of the sort that disqualifies, and that disqualification continues until the terms embodied in the contract are fulfilled. It should be noted, however, that a person who buys a house from the builder is not disqualified where the builder has received the subsidy.

There is an exception to the position just outlined contained in the Rural Housing Act, 1926, which the Government has just expressed its intention to continue. Section 6 of that Act declares that a person to whom assistance was given by any local authority under that Act whether by loan or grant should not be disqualified for being elected or being a member of the authority. Our readers should not, however, jump to the conclusion that this is a concession to rural workers. It is a concession to farmers and landlords who receive money for patching up or converting old premises!

### Do Burial Fees Disqualify?

*Question.* A minister is a member of a certain Council and receives his burial fees from a Joint Committee of his Council and other adjoining Councils. This Committee precepts upon the Council each half year. Is the minister disqualified or not from continuing in office as a Councillor?

*Answer.* It would appear from our correspondent's statement of fact that the minister receives his burial fees from the Joint Committee, and we are inclined to the opinion that this is a separate corporate body. We do not think employment by this body would disqualify from membership of one of the contributory Councils. A contract to disqualify must be "on behalf of the Council" and we do not think the payment of burial fees could be held to be a payment on behalf of either of the Councils.

### Unpaid Election Loans.

*Question.* At the last election our local agent found it necessary to borrow certain sums of money in order to pay the election accounts in time. This money has not been repaid, and some of us are very uneasy about it. Our annual accounts are due, and we should like to know if we should return the money owing in our accounts as a liability. Would not this expose us to the danger of being prosecuted for not paying in time? Can we get into trouble now for not having paid off the loans in time?

*Answer.* It is good that our friends should be worrying about the state of the finances, for it is invariably a troublesome matter when a Party gets into difficulties owing to its election expenditure. We hope some special effort will be made to quickly clear off the deficit.

Our correspondent is not clear whether the debt remains from the 1929 election or some local elections, though in neither case does there appear to be any fear of trouble from the authorities. All that is required to be declared in either a Parliamentary or in local Government Elections where returns are necessary, is a statement of expenses incurred on account of, or in respect of the conduct or management of an election. We do not think a loan which was raised for the purpose of paying the expenses incurred could be held to be itself an election expense.

On the other hand, in a Parliamentary Election the return of election expenses must give a statement of all monies received. If the money from the loan was handed over to the election agent in a specific sum it would be necessary to enter it in the return accordingly. The usual custom, however, is to regard a loan of this character as a purely personal or Party transaction, and it appears to be outside the question of the official accounts altogether.

### How to Begin a Prosecution.

*Question.* A reader asks our opinion on the following matter. In the recent U.D.C. Elections four posters appeared on certain houses on behalf of two independent candidates. The posters did not bear the names of the candidates, however, nor any official heading, nor the printers' imprint. The returning officer was appealed to and he has replied stating that it would appear that the posters referred to are not official posters and that he has therefore no jurisdiction in the matter. Our local friends appear to object to the returning officer's reference to these posters as not being "official," and insist that the posters were definitely issued by one of the candidates and they therefore must be "official."

*Answer.* To clear up the latter point first the returning officer's reply obviously means that as the posters were not issued by himself they are not "official" and he therefore has no jurisdiction over them. Here he is quite right. A good deal of misunderstanding exists in many quarters concerning the course to be taken when an election offence is committed, and we will take this opportunity of clearing up the matter for the benefit of our readers.

The returning officer's powers to prosecute are generally limited to the offence of personation and actual misconduct at the polling booth. It is not his business to prosecute in the case of corrupt practices (other than personation) and illegal practices.

The law relating to the commencement of prosecutions is the same for Parliamentary as it is for Local Government Elections. In the first place the Public Prosecutor may take action, and in fact it is laid down by Section 45 of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883 (which is applied to Local Government Elections by the



Municipal Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Practices) Act, 1884, Section 30), that where information is given to the Director of Public Prosecutions that any corrupt or illegal practices have prevailed in relation to any election "it shall be his duty, subject to the regulations under the Prosecution of Offences Act, 1879, to make such enquiries and institute such prosecutions as the circumstances of the case appear to him to require."

By both the Corrupt Practices Acts mentioned above the Director of Public Prosecutions is required to attend or to be represented on the trial of every election petition, and it is his business to then carry out any direction given to him by the Court regarding the prosecution of offenders or to prosecute them under direction from the election court, and such prosecution may take place either before the Election Court or before a court of Summary Jurisdiction.

It will be seen, therefore, that where an election offence is committed one course open in order to secure a prosecution is to communicate with the Public Prosecutor. Our readers must appreciate, however, that it by no means follows that a prosecution will follow, for the P.P. exercises discretion in the matter, and it has appeared to us that the fear of informants being prompted by political bias more often than not influences the Public Prosecutor to take no action.

The simplest way to initiate a prosecution is to take advantage of the Summary Jurisdiction Acts. Under these Acts any person may lay "an information" before the magistrates whether the offence is an indictable one (such as corrupt practices) or punishable upon summary conviction (as with illegal practices). In the latter class of cases the justices may hear the case, and, if they think fit, impose punishment; in the case of indictable offences the offender may be committed for trial.

The practical difference between prosecution by the Public Prosecutor on "an information" sent to him, and prosecution before the magistrates on an information laid before them, is that in the latter case the informant practically becomes the prosecutor, and he may be mulct in the expenses of the prosecution. His expenses, however, cease after an offender is committed for trial.

We have given the above information because it is of general interest and im-

portance. We, however, have a very poor opinion of the advantages to be gained by promoting prosecutions except in very serious cases. We certainly do not think it worth the candle to proceed in a case where the offence is merely that of omitting a printer's imprint. It is always open for the offender to file an application for relief, and a successful application effectually torpedoes a prosecution. At the same time, where prosecution seems desirable in the interests of fair play and clean elections, it is worth knowing that there is a remedy to hand. Though a solicitor is not absolutely necessary in laying information or conducting a prosecution, it is eminently desirable that one should be employed—though this, of course, adds to the expense.

### Prohibited Premises in U.D.C. Election.

*Question.* I am very interested in the queries and answers in the "Labour Organiser" and am wondering if you would clear up one or two points in doubt.

Our local branch meets at a cafe and on the approach of an Urban District Council Election I get very anxious over the discussion of matters relating to the election and the candidate. I point out to our members that we are "sailing close to the wind," and request that further discussion be deferred until our next meeting, which is usually held in a member's house.

I. Do the Acts relating to "corrupt practices" apply to Urban District Council elections?

II. Are we infringing the law by holding election meetings in a cafe?

Our Labour candidate is opposing two Ratepayers' Association candidates for the Urban District Council.

These two ratepayer-candidates have called an election meeting to be held in a cafe in the ward. How close to the wind are they sailing?

Is this meeting place a legitimate one?

A few yards from my house is a public house with a garden and lawn attached upon which is provided teas, etc.; over the entrance to the garden is a notice to the effect that it is licensed for music and dancing.

At the last General Election both Liberal and Tory candidates held election meetings on this lawn.

Would this be considered a legitimate meeting place?

*Answer.* The Municipal Election Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1884, is applied to Urban and Rural District Council Elections and Parish Council Elections by Section 48 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1894.

Legislation concerning the use of certain premises for Committee rooms and meetings is to be found in Section 16 of the 1884 Act. Any premises which are licensed for the sale of any intoxicating liquor for consumption on or off the premises, or on which any refreshment of any kind, whether food or drink, is ordinarily sold for consumption on the premises are prohibited from use *either as Committee Rooms or for election meetings*. There is an exemption where a part of the premises is ordinarily let as offices or for the holding of public meetings if such part has a separate entrance and no direct communication with the part of the premises where consumption or sale takes place.

The above position differs somewhat from that in a Parliamentary Election, for in the latter elections licensed premises may be used for meeting purposes. This sentence answers the latter part of the query, for it would appear that there was nothing illegal about the Liberal and Tory meetings on the public house lawn at the General Election.

The two ratepayers' candidates who have called an election meeting in the cafe are clearly infringing the law. The penalty is that for an illegal practice by a candidate at a Municipal Election, i.e., a fine not exceeding £100, and incapacity during a period of five years from being registered as an elector or from voting.

#### **Individual and Dual Membership.**

*Question.* A controversy has arisen in this locality regarding membership cards; could you please let me have your opinion and advice on the matter?

The local Labour Party has a voluntary contribution scheme of 4d. per month single, and sixpence per month for what is known as dual, membership, i.e., man and wife. It has been the usual custom to issue one card only to dual members.

Recently an opinion has been expressed that two cards should be issued one for the man, one for the wife. As the matter is causing some delay in getting the membership cards distributed, thereby hindering the work of the Party, I hope for an early reply

from you. Wishing the "Labour Organiser," which I find of valuable assistance, continued success.

*Answer.* Dual membership is something of a novelty to us. We have never heard of it in the Labour Party. The rules of the Party provide for individual membership, and the local rules, which must be approved by the Head Office, should make provisions for the subscription. Is there not some confusion here between membership and contributions?

Every member must by the rules of the Labour Party receive a National Labour Party card, and each member will of course exercise individual functions. For all we know a rule may be approved by the National Labour Party providing for a joint subscription in the case of man and wife, though we have not seen such a rule. Both, however, would still be individual members and we hardly understand how the National Labour Party card could be marked to show on one card the subscriptions of two persons.

A clearer method of working is possible. If it is decided to reduce the subscriptions in respect of members of a family this is best done, in our opinion, by entering the proper proportion of the reduced subscription on each card. In the case under notice where sixpence is the joint subscription, this would be threepence each.

#### **Cardboard Box Makers.**

*Question.* We are considering the possibility of circulating in the division small collecting boxes for the mantel-shelf on behalf of our General Election Fund. Do you happen to know of a firm—or firms—that makes small boxes very cheaply, and the quantities and rates?

*Answer.* We do not know any firms which specialise in the making of collecting boxes and should be glad if any of our readers would acquaint us with any firms of this sort. We have received several enquiries to the same effect. Pending the receipt of some information from our readers we give the names of certain cardboard box makers who appear to have a standing in the trade.

Boxfoldia Ltd., Ten Acres Works, Pershore Road, Birmingham.

Cardboard Box Co., Florence Street, Birmingham.

Gill and Sons, Peoples' Hall Works, Loveday Street, Birmingham.

Wolverhampton Box Co. Ltd., Pountney Street, Wolverhampton.



**BALLOT PAPER CONFUSION.****Two Candidates of Same Name.**

A discussion recently took place at one of the district meetings of Labour Agents concerning some confusion that had arisen in certain specified elections, where two candidates of the same christian and surname had gone to the poll. It was alleged that the present form of ballot paper did not lend itself to sufficient distinction between the candidates in such circumstances as those named, and cases were instanced where electors had been confused at the polling stations because they were unable to distinguish which of the candidates of the same name stood for the Party they were desirous of voting for.

We have gone into this question and below we give a resume of the position as it stands.

Rule 22 of the Ballot Act reads, "every ballot paper shall contain a list of the candidates described as in their respective nomination papers and arranged alphabetically in the order of their surnames, and (if there are two or more candidates with the same surname) of their other names; it shall be in the form set forth in the second schedule to this Act or as near thereto as circumstances admit and shall be capable of being folded up."

Below we reproduce the front of the ballot paper.

It will be seen from the above that if the prescribed form is used the surname, christian names, description and place of abode all appear. The rule, however, makes the use of christian names and abode optional.

One would imagine that if these rules are carried out and the christian names

and abode added where necessary, there would not be one chance in a million of two people appearing in precisely the same way on the ballot paper. One can, of course, imagine two people of common christian and surnames having the same address, particularly where the address is merely that of a place name, where houses are neither numbered or named. Yet surely in such case the description would suffice to distinguish. It is just possible to imagine even distinction breaking down here, and so perhaps there is a case for the returning officer being empowered in such circumstances to place some further distinction on the ballot paper to indicate the difference between the two candidates.

It can be said of course that the numbering on the ballot paper is sufficient for voters to be apprised of the candidate for whom they are voting. For instance, Jack Smith, farmer, of Ladywood, near Worcester, may be number three on the ballot paper, and Jack Smith, farmer, Ladywood, near Worcester, may be number four. Jack Smith, the first, would urge voters to vote for number three on the ballot paper and Jack Smith, the second, would urge them to vote for number four.

We do not think however, that this is quite the thing. We agree with those who have raised this subject that if difficulties are likely to arise the ballot paper itself should provide conclusive evidence that would distinguish the candidates. However, we cannot but think that the illustration we have given is somewhat far fetched, and that most of the difficulty that has arisen has

Counterfoil No.

Note:

This counterfoil is to have a number to correspond with that on the back of the Ballot Paper.

[Note this part is the counterfoil retained by the Presiding Officer. — Ed. "L.O."].

1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BROWN</b></p> <p>(John Brown, of 52, George St., Bristol, merchant.)</p>	
2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JONES</b></p> <p>(William David Jones, of High Elms, Wilts, Esq.)</p>	
3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MERTON</b></p> <p>(Hon. George Travis, commonly called Viscount Merton, of Swanworth, Berks.)</p>	
4	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SMITH</b></p> <p>(Henry Sydney Smith, of 72, High St., Bath, attorney.)</p>	

occurred because the form of the ballot paper is not properly adhered to.

It may be observed that in the rule we have quoted it is not expressly laid down that the place of abode should appear, and this is the position as regards Parliamentary, County and Borough Council Elections—though the abode is given in the example. In the Orders in Council which have been issued for Metropolitan Borough, Urban and Rural District Council and Parish Council Elections, an amendment of the Ballot Act rules is made which makes it clear that the ballot paper *must* contain the places of abode. Here the rule is made to read: — “Every ballot paper shall contain a list of the candidates, with their places of abode, described as in their respective nomination papers, and arranged alphabetically in the order of their surnames, and (if there are two or more candidates with the same surname) of their other names: it shall be in the form set forth in the Second Schedule to this Act or as near thereto as circumstances admit, and shall be capable of being folded up.”

We have made enquiries from several Returning Officers, and in each case we find that the prescribed *form* of the ballot paper has in their area always been scrupulously adhered to. There may perhaps be some laxity in this respect in other parts of the country, and we should be obliged if our friends would send us copies of any ballot papers which are used and which do not conform with the instructions.

#### THE MAGISTRACY.

A correspondent writes us asking for some information regarding the necessities of residence by a Magistrate in the Borough for which the Magistrate acts. Our correspondent too, is full of bitterness at the slow results being obtained under a Labour Lord Chancellor in rectifying the balance of Labour representation on the Magisterial Benches. He says that lists of suggested names have been sent in several times but with no result, and he asks if the Lord Chancellor should be reminded that two Magistrates died last year and their places have not been filled.

Our correspondent's letter is by no means the only expression of disappointment that has reached us concerning the continued evil of biased Benches of Magistrates. Indulgent as every

loyal Labourite will be with his own side and appreciative of their difficulties, we ourselves are bound to confess that there is a volume of dissatisfaction concerning the slowness of progress in this matter that is bound to find expression sooner or later. The Labour forces in certain counties we could name are not only disappointed but disheartened and disgusted. There is no smoke without fire, and we earnestly hope for a gingering up in this matter.

As to our correspondent's first question, a Borough Justice must, while acting as such, reside in or within seven miles of the borough or occupy a house, warehouse or other property in the borough. He need not be a Local Government elector. Distance is measured by the Ordnance Survey.

As to the suggestion to notify the Lord Chancellor that certain Magistrates are dead, this is unnecessary, unless it is required by way of remonstrance. As a matter of fact, Clerks of the Peace and Town Clerks are required to send to the Crown Office in January of each year a statement of the Magistrates who have died during the previous year, together with a statement of Justices who have qualified during the same period.

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# THE LABOUR PARTY

# League of Youth

## Monthly Bulletin

EDITOR :

W. ARTHUR PEACOCK.

No. 10 (NEW SERIES)

APRIL, 1931

## THE LITERARY COMPETITION

**T**HE Literary Competition which was launched some time ago has now been judged by Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., and the Rt. Hon. F. O. Roberts, M.P., and prizes have been awarded to the following :—

**Class A.** Why I am a member of the Labour Party League Youth.

**Winner.** **Nora Crowther, 4, Birchcliffe Road, Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire.**

**Class B.** A Biography of a Labour Leader.

**Winner.** **Miss Gertrude Green, 59, Grove Road, Halton, Leeds.**

While the number of entries was fewer than we anticipated, praise must be extended to those who submitted essays and in particular to those who

wrote upon the life of a Labour leader. Several interesting essays reached us in this connection, and at a later date use may be made of these in the Bulletin. We feel sure that members of the League will be interested to read the prize-winning essays, and both are printed in this issue. William Morris, who is the subject of the Class B essay is a socialist artist and craftsman about whom young socialists should know a great deal more than they do. His books will be found in most public libraries, while cheap reprints of "News from Nowhere" and "The Dream of John Ball" may be obtained.

One interesting feature revealed by this competition is that young women members of the League took the greater interest in it and that a large percentage of entries came from them.

Is this significant?

### **Class A.** **WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE LABOUR PARTY LEAGUE OF YOUTH.**

By NORA CROWTHER.

**I** AM a member of the Labour Party League of Youth because I recognise what an extremely important organisation this is. It is entirely upon youth that the future depends, and we young people must be trained in order to be capable of handling that future efficiently, moulding it in an endeavour to leave the world, when we, in our turn, pass it on to our children, a rather better place than it was before.

Politics determine the conditions of the people and so are not to be ignored as being unnecessary and unworthy of consideration. There has been much striving, suffering and effort to make our Parliament what it now is, a machine by means of which the people

can, to some extent, control their own circumstances. This machine, along with all other things, will pass into the hands of us who are now the young people, and we must already take an

intelligent interest in it, if we are to be capable of making the best possible use of it when we are grown up.

Much talent is wasted because so many young people do not become interested in politics earlier in life. It is so much more easy to teach new ideas to a young person than to one whose mind is confused by tradition and prejudice. It is in the spring that the seeds are sown upon which the harvest depends, and in the spring of life are sown the seeds from which arise adult thoughts and actions.

It is the work of the Labour Party League of Youth to collect the young people and direct their thoughts into

(Continued on page 79.)



Class B:

## THE LIFE OF WILLIAM MORRIS.

By GERTRUDE GREEN.

**W**ILLIAM Morris was born at Walthamstow in 1836. His life is the record of a romantic temperament having beauty for its shrine. We read of the small boy, riding around his father's park near Epping Forest, dressed in a toy suit of armour, enacting those romances of Scott and Dumas: the young Oxford graduate materially secure with a £900 annuity painting fine pictures and later composing "The Defence of Guenevere" and more rich beautiful poetry: the successful business man, creating lovely objects for the homes of better class England; and lastly the tireless social reformer, struggling to bring beauty into the lives of the workers.

### THE EARTHLY PARADISE.

What an outstanding personality he must have been! His appearance was that of a sea captain—and if he was rather hot-tempered at times his usual good humoured friendliness amply compensated for his lapses. He was a prodigious worker, for in every branch of his business was he a master craftsman, be it metal work, church decoration, furniture and wallpaper designing or later, in dyeing, carpet and tapestry weaving and printing. His influence upon the taste of the age was tremendous — for this alone would his memory be revered; and what a legacy this poetry is to the jaded tired minds of to-day! How it conveys living pictures of olden times in the "Earthly Paradise," the qualities of endurance and tragic depths of affection portrayed in his tremendous epic "Sigurd the Volsung," and his hero's utter lack of any fear of death or the unknown, is strangely moving.

In 1857 he married Jane Burden, and after living five years at the "Red House," Bexley Heath, lived the remainder of his life in and around London, having a fine old manor house at Kelmscott, near Oxford, as his country retreat.

Until the age of forty-four public life did not interest him; but gradually Socialism was born within him, from his whole conception of life. He saw

the utter joylessness of man's labour all around him, and how the sordid lives and environment of the people killed all their sense of beauty, and a new era in his life commenced. Henceforth it was his work to try and change the existing system regardless of how he was socially ostracised, because Socialism in those days spelt lawlessness and folly.

He joined the Social Democratic Federation in 1883 and was very soon a very active propagandist, preaching the gospel of revolution; sometimes in provincial towns before crowded audiences but more often on a soap box at some street corner before a mere handful of people. Morris felt that the time was inopportune for a parliamentary policy and left the S.D.F. owing to dissensions with Hyndman upon this question. He founded the Socialist League in 1885, also publishing the "Commonweal" paper. Much of his finest literary work appeared therein, including "The Dream of John Ball," a story depicting the joyous life of the workman, towards the end of the Feudal System, and that delicate inspiring dream of the future "News from Nowhere." In this his characters are free men and women, surrounded by simple beauty, working purely for joy, having rejected all that was dulling and mechanical.

### TRAFALGAR SQUARE RIOTS.

After a few years of really constructive work the League gradually broke up, largely owing to the influx of anarchists. The failure of the Trafalgar Square riots in 1887 showed how unprepared the workers were for revolt, needing education in the cause of democracy and realising the need of unity of all branches of the cause; in order to achieve this, in 1893 Morris, with Hyndman and G. B. Shaw, of the Fabian Society, jointly compiled a "Manifesto to English Socialists."

After a life of extreme activity and service to an ideal, Morris passed away in 1896 and was buried at his beloved Kelmscott; but still his influence lives, revealing as he did the true connection between life, joy, labour and beauty. And we carry with us to-day his eternal motto:—

"Fellowship is Life.

Lack of fellowship is death."

## Get on with Your Job

*The following article has been received from a young socialist who deprecates the articles on "Youth" which have lately appeared in the Press.*

*What do other members think?*

*We invite their views.*

"Youth" is a topic which writers seem to delight to handle in the columns of the popular press. Gloomy deans, retired colonels, maiden aunts and latterly, sons of great men, all have been telling us what they think of the younger generation, what difficulties the latter have to face, how poorly or excellently they compare with their parents. It is time that some of these remarks were blue pencilled. One young man who wrote recently in "The Daily Herald" declared that young people were discouraged by older comrades in the movement and that as a result they were reluctant to attend local Labour Party and Trade Union meetings. What a lot of nonsense! The whole story of the League of Youth repudiates such a suggestion. An examination of the composition of local Labour Party committees will quickly show the foolishness of the utterance. Instead of young people being discouraged they are always encouraged providing they display ability as well as enthusiasm. One is as necessary as the other.

*(Continued from page 1.)*

channels where they can study the political aspect of things, and can see for themselves that the only solution to the problems which are causing such misery and want among the working people is Socialism.

In the Hebden Bridge Branch of the League we successfully combine pleasure and serious work in our programme. We have many discussions on the events of the day, also lectures and debates, and if our ideas are somewhat original and scarcely practicable, at least they are, I think, full of promise for the future, when more age and experience will have added ballast to them. The sports section is far from being neglected. In summer we are very fond of rambling and spend most of our week-ends in this manner. Also we often arrange tennis matches

### Helping the Party.

Take our League of Youth as an example. Did it not come into being because young people wanted it? Has not the adult Party encouraged it, helped it, and supported it throughout? Of course it has. It may be that here and there a local Party has poured cold water on proposals to organise a league but on the whole there has been whole-hearted co-operation between both sections of the movement. Consider, too, the number of young people who have taken an active part in Labour Party politics. Many of our members have been on local management committees and have held important offices in the divisional parties. I know of some who have been Presidents of their senior Party in addition to their office in the League.

### Youth and Crabbed Age.

The Labour Party has a big place in its life for young people. It wants them and it has need of them. The youth of the country have most to gain from service in Labour's cause. Those who say Labour discourages the young should endeavour to do a little more for Labour. They will see that they are wrong. There is a mine of work for young people to do within the League of Youth. There is much work for the League to do for the Labour Party. Let us get on with the work and cease all these silly, petty arguments about "Youth and Crabbed Age."

amongst ourselves. We have an annual event in the form of a sports day, when we compete with other branches for a silver cup which is held for one year by the winners, then again put up for competition. The sporting spirit is developed in this manner, and the training which is so necessary before any branch can hope to gain the coveted trophy is very beneficial to us all.

These things combine to unite us into a happy band of young people, all eager to learn, fitting ourselves for the time when we shall be old enough to join the Labour Party, and ready in the meantime to do whatever we can for the cause.

With such a purpose and such comradeship, who can wonder that I, and others, are happy and proud to be members of the Labour Party League of Youth



## By the Way

### The International.

OUR comrades on the continent are anxiously awaiting the result of our ballot on affiliation to the Young Socialist International. The latest issue of their monthly bulletin tells of the steps we are taking to link ourselves with the movement abroad just as the correspondence files at Transport House tell of the response that our own people are making. We do not exaggerate when we say we are disappointed. While a majority of branches are in favour of affiliation the number that has answered is too few for an opinion to be gauged and for the Advisory Committee to recommend that action be taken. Affiliation to the International is impossible unless a large majority of members of the League express their willingness to pay the 2d. per annum special subscription as outlined in the recent circular. Will branches who have not considered this proposal do so with the minimum of delay? Will those which have taken a vote upon the matter inform H.O. of their branch decision? It is quite possible to conduct the work of the Advisory Committee effectively unless branch officials give their wholehearted co-operation. Remember two conferences of the League have decided for League affiliation to the International. Members of the International are keen for our support and are looking forward to greeting our representatives. Do not disappoint them. Discuss the circular in your branches now. Send your replies to Mr. R. T. Windle, Transport House Sout, Smith Square, Westminster, S.W.1. Let us join the Young Socialist International and so play our part in the great endeavour to promote international friendship and good feeling.

## S.O.S.

Our postbag is always interesting and the reports from branches generally provide us with useful indications of the useful work in which League branches engage. In the past we have published several encouraging reports from our friends at Grantham. This month they write us in different strain and their questions should interest other branches and bring forth some replies. We give the letter in full and invite our readers' comments.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Once more an erring sheep returns to the fold in the shape of the Secretary of the Grantham League of Youth, who regrets that she has had so little material to write round, that a report of this Branch's activities has been some three or four months in reaching you.

We are such a small branch that it is quite hard work to keep alive, and once more we send out an S.O.S. to you to ask if other Leagues have experienced the same difficulty in obtaining and retaining members. We should be most pleased to know how other Leagues manage to keep their members.

At different times we have had about 79 members on the books, but the number has gradually dwindled that now we count ourselves lucky if we are able to get ten or a dozen members to the meetings. We have circularised all the people on the books three times, which resulted in probably half a dozen extra attending the next meeting, but dropping off again. I wonder if you would ask other Leagues for hints?

We have had several dances during the winter, which have been financially successful, and one or two socials which have not, but the trouble seems that we are just a money-making concern, we have a dance or two, make a profit, just about sufficient to pay off running expenses, room, rent, etc.

We also have had a talk on the objects of the N.C.L.C. from a Nottingham representative of the latter, which we very much enjoyed. Future events to which we are looking forward are the arranging of a visit, if possible, to the National Workers' Sports Day celebrations at Crystal Palace, and a day's outing somewhere in the summer, for which we have an Outing Fund.

Wishing the Bulletin every success.  
(Miss) HILDA M. BRADLEY,  
Hon. Secretary.

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### NOTICE.

"The League of Youth Monthly Bulletin" is issued by the Press and Publicity Department of the Labour Party. By arrangement with the "Labour Organiser" it is first published in the pages of that journal, from which it is reprinted for wider circulation.